

DEAR CHAIRMAN POWELL AND COMMISSIONERS,

I believe that our democracy depends upon citizens being informed about the issues that affect their lives, and about the candidates for whom they must vote. Unfortunately, the system we Americans depend upon - the media - to achieve this end, is both failing and making it more difficult.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. And today, what public interest broadcasting there is, is so filled with meaningless slogans and repeated empty reporting, that frustration triumphs long before understanding can possibly occur.

Broadcasters can't correct the non-speak of the subjects they report. But, if the FCC were to require a minimum time requirement for coverage of local civic and electoral affairs programming, additional voices would add a diversity, a new perspective, and maybe an insight. Further, the FCC should provide meaningful guidance regarding substantive election coverage in the weeks prior to Election Day.

Please consider how the FCC's obligation to serve the public interest might improve the quality of information being transmitted to the American public. Simply adding additional channels of the same repeated events and platitudes will do nothing to increase public good.

Sincerely,

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